

**.HACK//DUSK
.HACK//LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT
VOL 2**

This one's probably better quality than the Gate Keepers ones. I've included large version of the two emails that I found incredibly difficult to read with that small font.

KanZashi

hack

// LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT™

2



TOKYOPOP®

hack

// LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT™

What do you do when a game starts playing by its own rules?

Shugo and Reina only recently started playing The World, the most advanced online game ever created, but they are already well on their way to becoming heroes. They've got a great party of friends, cool new items, and now they've been joined by Zefie, a Vagrant AI who acts outside the rules of the game. As intelligent as Zefie may be, the CC Corporation isn't about to let an unstable element run free in The World-not after what happened four years ago. So with the notorious debugging team, The Cobalt Knights, on the prowl, Shugo and company had better watch out!



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1



hack2

//LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT

PLAGA: KET IZUMI

ARTWORK
DIRECTOR: TATSUYA HARAZAKI





hack

// LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT

Art by Rei Izumi
Story by Tatsuya Hamazaki

Volume 2



Los Angeles • Tokyo • London • Hamburg

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hack

LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT



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A  TOKYOPOP Manga

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NOTARU

A LEVEL PLAYER WHO GOT LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE IN HER FELLOW PERSONALITY, SHE WENT TO LIVE IN HER OWN WORLD. SHE'S NOT THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.

OUKA

A CUTE GIRL WHO CAN BE TRICKED BY ANYONE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.

MIREILLE

A BANNISTER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



BALRUNE

A FELLOW PLAYER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



REKI

A BANNISTER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



ROMIYAN III

A FELLOW PLAYER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



KAMUI

A FELLOW PLAYER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



MACE

A FELLOW PLAYER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.



ZEFEO

A FELLOW PLAYER WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. SHE'S SO SURE THAT SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS SHE'S BEING TOLD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEFT OUT.

C H A R A C T E R

キ ャ ラ ク タ ー 紹 介

SHUGO

THE HERO OF THE STORY. 14 YEARS OLD AND BORN IN THE NORTH. AFTER A MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENT, HE WAS LEFT WITH THE TWILIGHT BRILLIANT.

RENA

SHUGO'S FELLOW CLASSMATE. AFTER SHE WAS LEFT WITH THE TWILIGHT BRILLIANT, SHE ENTERED THE WORLD WITH SHUGO.



THE WORLD

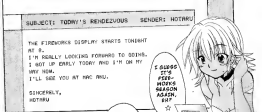
What is THE WORLD? It's the largest online game in the world, played by 20 million people. Using head-mounted displays, gamers can freely move inside a totally realistic world. There have been problems with the game in the past, but recently it's been trouble-free. More people are joining each day.



I N T R O D U C T I O N



NEW ORGANIZATION ONLINE
THE WORLD









THE
GREAT
AND
POWER-
FUL
KOMI--



RENA,
YOU
GO,
GIRL!
NYAH!

I'LL
PRETEND
I DIDN'T
HEAR
THAT...



RENA!!

I HATE
THIS
PLAACE!

N-
NO!



HEY, SUGO
DIDN'T RENA
KNOW IT'S
DANGEROUS TO
GO WALK
AROUND ALONE
IN STRANGE
NEW PLACES?

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
SHE'S SO
SCARED OF
IT'S ONLY A
HUNTER!
HOSHO

ONE JUST NEEDS
TO HAVE A SENSE

RENA!



YOU
FIND
SOME-
THING?

A
BAD
GUY
?!

WAIT A
SECOND!
MY
LITTLE
RENA...
IT'S ME

THAT
VOICE
SOUNDS
VAGUELY
FAMIL-
IAR...

H
U
H?







OKAY, MIRBILLS, YOU ATTACK IT WITH THUNDER SPELLS, BUT MAKE SURE OUR HP DOESN'T GET TOO LOW EITHER!!



AND RSNA, THINK YOU CAN GET YOUR MIRROR'S RANGE UP!! AND EASILY ALL OF OUR ATTACK ACCURACY PRACTICALLY!!



LET'S DO THIS!



WOW, I NEVER KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU!!

YOU'RE JUST LIKE ...



OOH, HE'S A BIG BOY!!

SHUGO ...

YOU OKAY?

HUM? Y-- YBAH ...

RSNA, THES THING'S ELEMENT IS DARK, RIGHT?

**THUNDER
DANCE!!**

**YOU'RE
FINISHED
!!**

**...THE
LEGENDARY
HERO--
KITE!!**

**WAY TO
GO,
SHUGO!**

**PHBW!
WE
MADE
IT.**

TOLD
YOU I'D
BE A
HERO.

I
PROM-
ISED
YOU,
DIDN'T
I?

BUT YOU KNOW,
ST. BURE WAS
SURPRISING
FINDING OUT
YOU'RE SCARED
OF MONSTERS
LIKE THAT.

BUT YOU
KNOW...
THERE'S
NOT THAT
MUCH TIME
LEFT FOR
YOU AND
ME TO
HANG OUT
LIKE THIS
ONLINE.

S-S-ENOUGH
ALREADY!
WHO REALLY
CARES,
ANYWAY?

HA
HA
HA!

CITY OF
WATER
TAC ANU

THE
PERFECT
SPOT FOR
ENJOYING
FEEWORKS

I'M GLAD
WE MADE IT
BACK IN TIME
FOR THE
FEEWORKS

ALSO DON'T FORGET
TO BUY THE
BEST OF THE
FEEWORKS

...I'VE
BEEN
LEVELING
UP ON MY
OWN.

WELL,
LATELY...

WHERE
DID THIS
CHANGE
OF HEART
COME
FROM?

YOU USED TO
HATE THE
IDEA OF
YOUR A DASH
IN THE CITY

I CHECKED
OUT THE
NEWS-
GROUPS,
READ A
BUNCH OF
FADS,
TOO.

CAN'T BE
DEPENDING
ON THIS
BRACELET
ALL THE
TIME, YOU
KNOW

SINCE
WHEN DID
YOUR
CHARACTER
GET SO
STRONG,
SHUGO?

HEY,
LISTEN...

YOU TALKED, LOCAL
SQUADSTER ME.





LOGIN &
A NEW
RESOLVE

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
I'M IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
REMEMBER?

AND
REMEMBER,
SAYIN'
CAN'T
HAVE
PARTIES!

SHE
IS
STUCK
TO
HIM
LIKE
GLUE!

WHO
KNOWS
HE'D
MOTHERED
A LOVE
CHILD...?

YOU'VE
BEEN
GLIMING
TO
GUSKO
EVER
SINCE
YOU
SAW
HIM!
WHAT'S
UP
WITH
THAT?

ENOUGH
ALREADY!
JUST
GET
AWAY
FROM
HIM!

THAT
GANGURO*
GIRL IS
SCARING
ME...

SLAM!

STOP

*GANGURO: BROTHER OF GUSKO WITH SOLE OF
SHOES MADE WITH WHOLE PEPPER

WHOA!

MOMMY!!

WHAT
DID
YOU
SAAAAAY
?!

WH--

OOH--







EXACTLY. THIS GUY'S JUST LIKE WITH THE GRUNTY. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL AND UNDERSTANDING.

OH... RIGHT.

NO, IT ISN'T.

YE-YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE GETTING ALL MIXED UP OVER EVERY LITTLE THING. AN NPC DOESN'T GET VERY MAD.

WHAT'S A GRUNTY?

EXACTLY. YOU THINK YOU CAN TRY AND GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE?

OKAY?

GRUNTY

I'M SURE YOU'LL GET ALONG JUST FINE.

HI...

A GRUNTY IS THAT THING ROTARU'S HOLDING.

OH!



I'M WAY SMALLER THAN THIS THING



I'M RENA AND I'M NOT A TANNING SALON FREAK.



MY NAME IS ROTARU!

OOH! MY NAME IS MOKKILL!

KA-KAWAII! WHAT A CUTIE!

I'M OKKA

HEE-EV-DOM

*KOBAL.

POOCH.

FUNNY ACCENT.



THERE'S NO REASON TO GET ANGRY, NOW IS THERE?

NYAHA. SHE REALLY IS AN ADVANCED AI!

HAY HAY

DEFINATELY NOT KAWAII!







...I
WANNA
SEE MY
MOMMY
...



HER
MOM?
!



I
DUNNO...

...WHERE IS
YOUR
MOTHER
ANYWAY,
ZEPH?

OH,
YEAH...



I
THOUGHT
MAYBE
SHE WAS
HERE...
THAT'S
WHY I
CAME.

AFTER A
WHILE...
I SMELLED
HER
SMELL.

ONE DAY I
NOTICED
THAT I HAD
BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR HER ALL
BY MYSELF



WHAT'S
YOUR
MOTHER'S...
WHAT'S
YOUR
MOTHER'S
NAME?

ZEPH?

THE
BRACELET
?!

MOMMY...

THIS
BRACELET...
IT HAS MY
MOM'S
SCENT.



HEY, WHEN
WE GET
BACK, YOU
REALLY
SHOULD TELL
EVERYONE
YOU'RE
SORRY,
"KAY?



I'M
NOT
SURE

DO ALL
ASS HAVE
THE
POWER
TO DO
STUFF
LIKE
THAT?

SO
YOU'RE A
VAGRANT
AT, RUH?



THEY
DON'T
SEEM TO
LIKE IT
TOO MUCH,
ANYWAY...

WELL,

PINK'S
NO
GOOD?

I'LL APOLOGIZE
WITH YOU.



ERINEND
HE OF
SENA
WERN
SHE
HAR
LETTER

BOY,
IS SHE
ADOR-
ABLE.
!



YOU
SMELL
LIKE
MY
MOMMY.



ALL
RIGHT.





...THEY
SEEM TO
BE INTER-
ESTED IN
SHUGO'S
NEW COM-
PANION.

FROM
WHAT I
CAN
TELL...

I SEE...
WHAT ARE
KAMUI
AND HER
LAPDOGS
UP TO
THIS
TIME?

THE COBALT
KNIGHT
BRIGADE...
HARDHEADED
STICKLEBS FOR
RULES AND
REGULATIONS...

WHAT
?!

OUT AS
HUNTING,
IS SHE?

CL
FORMATION
ONLINE
JAGERCENT
CENTER

SENDER: CO CORP., DEPT. OF NETWORK GAMES
SUBJECT: THE WORLD NEWS JAPANESE VERSION,
ISSUE 100
DATE: MONTH X / DAY X / YEAR 201X.
THIS SUMMER ONLY! A NEW ROOT TOWN IS
COMING!

ANNOUN-
CING THE
NEW
ROOT
TOWN
WM...

SO
THEY'RE
FINALLY

WHAT'S
UP?

IT HATES
TO INTERRUPT
YOU, SIR,
BUT...

WHEN
WE HAVE
BIG
UPDATES
LIKE THIS,
YEAH.

DO YOU GET
NERVOUS
ABOUT
THESE
THINGS
TOO, FALMINS?

IT SEEMS
THE COBALT
KNIGHT
BRIGADE IS
ON THE
MOVE
AGAIN.



OUR
MOST
SENCESS
APOLO-
GIES!

OUR--

YOU HAD REPORTS
FROM USERS ABOUT
THIS LITTLE BUG AND
YOU LET IT SLIDE
FOR A MONTH?

MA-
MA'AM

AND
YOU
IMBE-
CILES!

ENOUGH!!

VARIANT AT
HARD BEEN
GETTING
OTHER
FAMILY
LATELY,
RECKING
HOUR AND
NOW
ABOUT AT
HEATING
UNDER OUR
RADAR

NO--
HOW-
EVER--



YOU CAN
EXPECT
A PAY
CUT FOR
YOUR
NEGLI-
GENCE!

SO THIS
IS WHAT
HAPPENS AS
SOON AS I
LEAVE
TOWN ON A
BUSINESS
TRIP?

AS AN
EMPLOYEE OF CC
CORPORATION,
AND AS A
MEMBER OF THE
CORAL KNIGHT
FRIGADE,
YOU ARE UTTERLY
LACKING IN
RESPONSI-
BILITY!!

YES,
MA'AM!



YOU'VE
BEEN
QUITE
THE
HANDFUL.



YEEK!



OTO
SOME
MEDDLING
HACKER...

...STICK
YOU
INTO
THE
SEVER
FOR
KICKS?

YOU
IRKSOME
LITTLE
ROGUE
NPC.



NOW,
THEN.



WE
CANNOT
ALLOW
IRREGU-
LARITIES,
SUCH AS
VAGRANT
AIS TO
ENTER THE
SYSTEM!

RULES HAVE
BEEN SET UP
TO PROTECT
THE WORLD
AND ITS
USERS.
RULES THAT
MUST BE
FOLLOWED.

WE ARE THE
PROTECTORS
OF ORDER IN
THE WORLD.

IN THE
NAME OF
THE
COBALT
KNIGHT
BRIGADE,
I DELETE
YOU!!

HE--
HELP!

...SHALL
NOT REST
UNTIL ALL
OF THESE
BUGS ARE
WIPE
OUT!!



MY, OH MY.
WELL, IF
THIS ISN'T
BECOMING
QUITE THE
RECENTRE
PARTY.



AS THE
LEADER OF
THESE
KNIGHTS,
I, KAMUI...



 SENDER: CC CORP., DEPT. OF NETWORK GAMES
 SUBJECT: THE WORLD NEWS JAPANESE VERSION, ISSUE
 1001
 DATE: MONTH X / DAY X / YEAR 201X

THIS SUMMER ONLY! A NEW ROOT TOWN IS COMING!

A NEW
 ROOT
 TOWN?

I
 KNOW!
 THAT'S
 WHY WE
 HAVE
 TO GO!

DOOOON

WE
 JUST
 PROMISED
 EVERYBODY
 WE'D
 HELP
 YOU
 GUYS
 WITH
 NOTHING

HOLD
 ON A
 SEC

LISTEN,
 YOU
 GUYS!
 ☆
 WE
 JUST
 HAVE
 TO
 CHECK
 IT
 OUT!

SAYS
 EVERYONE
 OPENING
 UP
 A
 NEW
 ROOT
 TOWN
 JUST
 FOR
 THIS
 SUMMER

O
 O
 H!

I
 SEE...
 THIS
 WILL
 BE
 A
 PERFECT
 CHANCE
 TO
 GATHER
 INFORMATION

IT'S
 GOING
 TO
 BE
 LIKE
 A
 HUGE
 CARNIVAL.
 THERE'S
 GONNA
 BE
 A
 TON
 OF
 OTHER
 PLAYERS
 THERE.

☆

THE
 NAME
 OF
 THIS
 NEW
 TOWN
 IS...

LET'S
 SEE



SUBJECT: RE: THE INVESTIGATION

SENDER: KANUJI

DR., WANT A BUSTING TEST
 AT LEAST THE JAPANESE VERSION OF THE

FORWARDING THE REPORT. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO KNOW
 HOW THE INVESTIGATION WENT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM FOR THE RECOVERY OF
 THE NEW ROOT TOWN.
 ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ARE THE ONE INVOLVING
 THE WORLD AND IT'S TO BE
 BE HAVING A NEW ROOT TOWN DISCIPLINE COUNTRY. HERE FOR
 GUYS TO CHECK IT.

CC CORP., DEPT. OF NETWORK GAMES
 ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, JAPANESE
 GAMES/NETWORK GAMES/ROOT TOWN







smile



SHE
SURE
IS.

KANAKI!
SHE IS
ADDERLE,
YES?!



LET'S
GO!

SHUGO!
ONI-ICHA!!

chui!

EXCEPT
FOR THIS
NON-
SENSE!!



I
THINK
SO
TOO.

IT MIGHT
BE BETTER
TO SPLIT
UP AND
ASK
AROUND.



BUT
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

SORRY,
I HAVE
NO
IDEA.

MY
MOMMY

IS...
IS SHE
HERE?



YES!

I
PROM-
ISE!

REALLY
?





I'M AFTER INFORMATION, OF COURSE!



WELL, HOW'S THIS FOR YA?



TRADING IS ABOUT GIVE AND TAKE.
THOSE GOSS FOR INFORMATION, AS WELL.

AS I'M SURE YOU ARE AVERAGE



THAT'S MY SECRET STASH OF RARITIES.



I COULD OPEN A COSPLAY CAFE WITH ALL THESE...



...IS YOUR FRIEND?



GO YOU'VE PLAYED THIS GAME SO HIGH YOU NO LONGER CARE ABOUT COLLECTING ITEMS?

BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ORDINARY CARD ITEMS

GOODBY TO DISAPPOINT YOU



BUT...
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.

I'M MISSILE. WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE.

SORRY, I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER YOUR NAME.



THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT HAVEN'T HEARD OF YOU ARE NEWBIES AND CASUAL GAMERS.



...SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

IT'S JUST THAT YOUR CHARACTER LOOKS BRACED LIKE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.

EXCUSE ME.

DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU IT'S RUDE TO STARE AT A LADY?



YOU ARE RIGHT.

THOSE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION, DOES THERE...?



IS IT ME, OR HAS IT GOTTEN A LITTLE BIGGER?

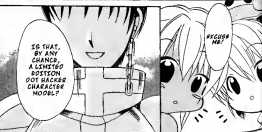
YOUR GAUNTY THERE HAS BEEN CROUCHING DOWN FOR THE LONGEST TIME...
HEY.



MAYBE IT'LL GET ITS INTER-MEDIATE STAGE SOON

YEAH

IT IS SLOWLY GROWING REGGIE



IS THAT, BY ANY CHANCE, A LIMITED EDITION DOT HACKER CHARACTER MODEL?

REGGIE NO!



WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE DOT HACKERS?



YOU KNOW ABOUT US?

HE WORE THE "KIT'S" CHARACTER MODEL...

YOUR FRIEND SUGRO, FOR INSTANCE.

IT'S A LIMITED EDITION MODEL OF THE LEGENDARY DOT HACKER.



SOMETIMES ONE MUST SPEND SOME TIME LOOKING IN THE REAL WORLD

IF ONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD

OKAY. YOU GOT ME. BUT HOW?



...ALL RIGHT. I'LL TALK.

BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU SEEM TEST-WORTHY.

WISE MAN



...I
SEE.

A
VAGANT
AS

WITH A
YOUNG
GIRL'S
BODY AND
REDDISH-
BLOND
HAIR.

YEAH
HIS NAME'S
SHE'S
MADE
LOOKING
FOR HER
"MOTHER," A
CHARACTER
NAMED
ASHA



FOUR
YEARS
AGO...



HOW
VERY
INTER-
EST-
ING.

AND THEN
ASHA WAS
THE FIRST
SUB-STORY
EVENT THAT
CHARACTER
SHOULD, AS
KETS, MET
IN THE
GAME

SO, GOT
ANY
IDEAS?

Y
O



OH,
HARRY.

COULD YOU
GIVE ME
AND NOT
MAKE A RED
POKE OVER
IT?

UHH

THIS IS
SUCH A
TREASURY!
IT'S THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE SEEN
ONE IN
PERSON



BUT YOU
KNOW, IT
REALLY IS
AN HONOR
TO MEET
SUCH A
LEGENDARY
CHARACTER.



OH, WE
JUST
WENT UP
FOR A
LITTLE
MILE.



WHAT ABOUT THE
PERSON WITH
THE KETS
MOOSE? AREN'T
YOU PLAYING
TOGETHER?



OH,
OH! YEAH,
YEAH

ER-
ERNA, HATED
ME
SHOULD
SEE IF
SHE KNOWS
ANY-
THING



TOO
BAD... I
REALLY
WANTED
TO SEE
THAT
MOOSE!



OH
...



THANKS
A LOT,
HANS-
GROUP!



smile

ALRIGHTY
THEN!



SO THAT
WAS
MIREILLE
...



... IS
BLASPHEMOUS
TO THE
GAME'S
CREATORS.

FOLLOW-
ING THE
STRATEGY
GUIDE
WORD FOR
WORD...



I WAS
AFRAID
YOU
WERE
GOING
TO TELL
HER
MORE...



...



BACK THE
HANS-
GROUP
MEMBERS.

REALLY
?!



BUT SOME
PERSONAL
MATERIALS
SHOULD
HAVE A
BACK-UP OF
THEM.

THE
ARCHIVES
ON THE
OFFICIAL
SITE HAVE
BEEN
DELETED.



YOU'VE GOT
EYES AND
EARS AND A
BEARD OF
YOUR OWN.

SO, YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO TELL ME
WHAT I AM
- FINEST?

FOUR
YEARS
AGO,
HUH...



ISN'T
THAT
WHAT
BEING
AN
EXPLORER
IN THE
WORLD
IS ALL
ABOUT?

FIRST,
DO
WHAT
YOU
CAN.



...FOUR
YEARS
AGO IN
THE
WORLD...

...THERE
WERE
SIGHTINGS
OF A
GIRL
LIKE
THAT.



YEAH WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
INFORMATION ON
VAGRANT ASS.

WE WERE WONDER-
ING IF
YOU
HAD
TO
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THEM...



VAGRANT
ASS?



YOU
MEAN
THOSE
BUGS?

VAGRANT
ASS...



...BUT SUP-
POSEDLY,
SOMEWHERE
IN THE
WORLD
THERE'S A
PLACE...

I'M NOT
SURE IF
THIS IS
TRUE OR
NOT...

...LIKE A
GARRAGE
DUMP
WHERE
BUGS
LOOK
THAT ASS
GATH-
ERED UP.



VAGRANT
ASS, YOU
SEE, ARE
"BUGS"
NOT IN THE
GAME'S
ORIGINAL
PROGRAM

BUGS
...?



FOUR
YEARS
AGO,
HUH...



WELL...

...COULD
THIS BE
A NEW
CHAPTER
IN THE
STORY?

"THIS
FINAL
MYST-
ERY."



...THIS
WORLD
COULD
TURN OUT
TO BE A
VERY
DIFFERENT
PLACE.

...FIND
THE
HIDDEN
TRUTH
AND
GATHER-
ING FOR...

WHEN
THEY



FOUR
YEARS
AGO, WE
DID
HACKERS
...

...LED BY THE
HERO KITE,
STOLE A
GLANCE INTO
THE VERY
CORE OF THIS
"WORLD."



ALL RIGHT,
YOU
GUYS
WANG IN
THREE!



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH!

NOT AT
ALL!
YOU'VE
GIVEN A
GREAT
HELP.

SORRY I
CAN'T
HELP YOU
MORE.

YES,
YES
SOMEO.



LET'S
GO
TALK
THREE
OVER
WITH
EVERY-
ONE

BUT AT
LEAST
WE
FOUND
A LEAD!

POSSIBLY
HAVE A VERY
NEED GIVE
IT...
AND
"BACKING"?

NET
SLUMS
...



HMM
...

YOU
HAVE
GIVEN
A
TOUGH
ROAD
AHEAD
OF
YOU

EH?

BACK
FROM
YOUR
BUSINESS
TRIP,
I SEE.



UHM...
I DON'T
THINK
YOU CAN
GET
THREE
FROM
THE
CHAOS
GATE.

DO YOU
KNOW THE
KEYWORD
TO GET
THREE?



BACK TOONS,
GUESSING IN THE
PROGRAMMING,
PEOPLE OF
YOUR LONG
FORGOTTEN.

THREE ARE
OTHER WAYS
OF TRAVEL-
LING IN
THE
MOVIE.

SO THEN,
HOW DO
YOU GET
THREE?



I
GUESS
THAT'S
ABOUT
ALL I
KNOW.

THE
"NET
SLUMS"

AND
THEN...
THERE'S
ALWAYS
HACKING.



IT'S
CALLED
THE
"NET
SLUMS."

IT'S
ALSO
RUMORED
TO BE A
HANGOUT
FOR
HACKERS
AND
MODDED
CHARAC-
TERS.



JUST
BECAUSE
WE WORK
FOR THE CC
CORPORATION,
DOESN'T MEAN
WE CAN'T PLAY
THE GAME
EVERY NOW
AND THEN.



YES...



BUT
DON'T
WORRY.
I WON'T
LAY A
HAND
ON
THEM.



AFTER
ALL, I
DID
LEARN IT
FROM
YOUR
BALMUNG.



WE ARE THE
ONES THAT
HAVE BEEN
ASSIGNED
TO MONITOR
SHUGO AND
HIS PARTY.

PLEASE TRY
NOT TO
OVERSTEP
YOUR
AUTHORITY.



WELL,
IF IT
ISN'T
BALM-
UNG'S
LITTLE
JOD-ON



KAMUI.



I
KNOW
THAT.



COME
ON,
KID.

I'M
JUST
HAVING
A BIT
OF FUN.



WHA--



OUR COORDINATING OFFICE

THE WORLD

...AT LEAST,
NOT YET...



CITY OF
ILLUSTION
NAVAL
ROUTE

THE
COBALT
KNIGHT
BRIGADE,
EH?



BUT OUR
INFLUENCE
WITHIN
THE COM-
PANY IS
ABOUT
EQUAL.



FOR
NOW, I
CAN
KEEP
HER IN
CHECK.

GRIGO

THOSE
LEADS,
KAMUI,
HAS HER
EIGHTS
SET ON
GRIGO

...OR
THE
VASE-
AND AS
SHE WENT
DOWN...?



IT SEEMS
THE
DESCENDANT
OF PEANNA
HAS
GROWN UP
AT LAST.

LISTEN
TO YOU,
SPEAKING
LIKE A
RESPON-
SIBLE
ADMINIS-
TRATOR
OF THE CO-
OPERATION.



SUBJECT: BALMUNG!

SENDER: REKI

[REMI] FROM THE DEEPIN "EAM IS BOO" FROM
SHRAGHNI PLEASE !!

I JUST RAN INTO HER IN NAVAL ROUTE. SHE
CALLED ME "BALMUNG'S LITTLE ADO-ON."

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! (T.T)

REKI







...ZEPHIE
WAS BORN
INTO THIS
PLACE...

...SIMPLY
TO GET
LOST.



LET'S
GO,
ZEPHIE!

THEY
MIGHT'VE
FOUND
SOMETHING
OUT



I GOT A
MESSAGE.
IT'S FROM
RYNA AND
THEM



Ping!



HEY
ZEPHIE,
HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?



WAIT
A SEC...

I KNOW
THIS IS
JUST A
GAME, BUT
I FEEL SO
SORRY FOR
THE GIRL.

SHE'S SO
YOUNG...



BUT ACCORDING
TO MY INTERNAL
CLOCKWORKING,
THE UNKNOWN DATA
FILE THAT MARKED
UP MY
ARCHIVES
WAS UPDATED
THREE DAYS
AGO.



I
DON'T
KNOW.



TALK
ABOUT A
WEIRD
MOTHER-
DAUGHTER
RELATION-
SHIP

IT'S
ALMOST
AS IF...



...IS THAT
AURA IS
MY MOM.

THAT'S
ALL.

ALL I KNOW
IS
THE ONLY
DATA THAT
HAG 'GET UP'
INSIDE ME...

SO THAT
MEANS...
YOU WERE
JUST
BORN...?

...AND
"NET
SLUMS."

SO THE
CLUES
ARE
"FOUR
YEARS
AGO"...

IT'S
SUPPO-
SIBLY A
HANGOUT
FOR
HALLGERS
AND
CHATTERS
AND THE
LIKE.

'COURSE
NOT!
I JUST
FOUND
OUT THE
NAME!

HAVE YOU
EVER BEEN
TO THOSE
"NET
SLUMS,"
MICHELLE?

NOT
QUITS,
GUYS.
NICE
TRY,
THOUGH.

OH!
CHEETAH!

CHEATERS!

CHATTERS
CAN
NEVER
MAKE YOU
TRULY
STRONG!

CAN'T
STAND
'EM.

AND GIVE
THEMSELVES
TONS OF
MONEY
AND SUPER-
STRONG
WEAPONS

GUARDIAN
AND PLAY-
BOYS WHO
WEND
AROUND
WITH THE
POTENTIAL
TO RUIN
THIS
COUNTRY!



SHUGO
KUNISAKI,
YOU
LITTLE
--!!



"TURNING RED
HAIRY KIDNAPER
ON NO. TWO MOST
BEAUTIFUL
REACTIVE MODEL
IN THE WORLD
DOWN WORLD,
BENT TO A FISH"
A FISH!

I'LL NEVER
FORGET
WHAT YOU
DID TO ME
AT THE
TANASATA
EVENT.

KEN-
YAN-
CAN

GIRLS!
AGAIN
WITH
THE
GIRLS!



AND THEN
ESNA WILL
BE MINE,
ALL
MINE!!

I'LL NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!!

WHY
DOES HE
ALWAYS
GET TO
HAVE
GIRLS AS
TEAM-
MATES?!

JUST YOU
WATCH!
I SHALL GIVE
YOU THE MOST
HUMILIATING
DISMEMBERMENT
THE WORLD HAS
EVER SEEN!!





I TOTALLY FORGOT HOW LATE IT IS.

AH!

OH NO!

THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT CHANCE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN!

RIGHT! RIGHT!

I NEED ONE MORE DAY'S REST!

OH, YEAH...

I SERIOUSLY NEED TO HIT THE HAY.



STARE...

ZEPHIE...

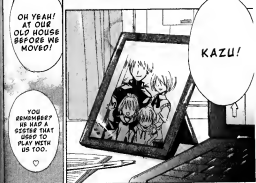


on the chair

HHMM... I DON'T KNOW.

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'RE AN NPC, AREN'T YOU, ZEPHIE?

YOU THINK IT'D BE OKAY TO JUST LEAVE A VAGRANT ALONE?



OH YEAH! AT OUR OLD HOUSE BEFORE WE MOVED!

YOU REMEMBER? HE HAD A SISTER THAT USED TO PLAY WITH US TOO.

KAZU!



IT WAS THE WORLD!

YUP!

THAT GAMB HE WAS ALWAYS PLAYING-- IT WASN'T, WAS IT?

WAIT A MINUTE!



AH! I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT!

... THAT HE COLLAPSED WHILE PLAYING AND HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED?

WAS IT AROUND THAT TIME...

... WAS BECAUSE HE WAS DOING IT, TOO.

THE REASON I STARTED PLAYING...

WHAT HAPPENED FOUR YEARS AGO?

I WONDER IF KAZU WOULD KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT



NAVAL
MONTS.
CITY
OF
ILLUSION

FOUR
YEARS
AGO...

WE SUDD
FOUND OUT
A LOT OF
STUFF
TODAY,
HUNT?

...AT...
NET
SLIMS



GOOD
THING
WE
CAME
HERE,
SH?

SHALL
WE
GO,
LEPES?

...THESE ARE
LITTLE STEPS,
BUT AT LEAST
WE'RE
MOVING
FORWARD.



CITY OF
WATER
NAC ANU

WELL,
SO
LONG,
NAVAL
MONTS.
AND...
THANKS.



I'M
SURE
WE
USED
OUR
EYES
RIGHT...
YEAH.



Amph

OH WELL...
IT IS
SUMMER
VACATION
AND ALL.

PINE,
STAY
WITH
HER AS
LONG
AS YOU
WANT.



I CAN'T
LEAVE HER...

SHUGO,
YES-
YES
YOU
CAN!!



HE-
HEY,
RENA!

...LEAVING
SEE
BROTHER
SHUGO!

GOOD-
BYE...



FOR NOW,
WHY
DON'T WE
HEAD TO
THE
RIDE-
OUT...?

OH,
WELL.



COME
ROOM

YOU
REALLY
LEAVING?

...IT
WOULDN'T
BE ANY
FUN,
RIGHT?

...IF IT
WAS
LIKE
THAT...

IT
SHOULDN'T
NEED AN
UNCERTAIN
ELEMENT
LIKE A
LOST KID.

IT COULD
JUST DELETE
ALL UNDE-
TAINED AND
CLOSE ITSELF
OFF FROM THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD, THIS
STARTS SEEMS
THE SYSTEM.

ISFIE?

IF
THIS
WORLD
WERE A
PERFECT
SYS-
TEM...

WHY
WAS
I...?

SO
THEN...

AND
TO BE
HONEST,
I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

Y'BBB,
I'M NOT
ALL
THAT
SMART...

I
GUESS
WHAT
I'M
TRYING
TO SAY
IS...

YOU KNOW
GOME PESTY
ADVANCED
STUMP THING,
SEFE?
BUT I GUESS
THAT'S
NATURAL FOR
AN AI...

SHUGO
ONII-
CHAN?

DON'T
YOU
THINK
SO,
ZEPH?

RIGHT?

SHUDD

IF THE
WORLD WAS
CLOSED OFF,
NOTHING
WOULD EVER
HAPPEN, AND
NO ONE
WOULD BE
ABLE TO SEE
ANY OF IT.

THESE ARE
ALL
DIFFERENT
KINDS OF
PEOPLE...
AND ALL
DIFFERENT
SORTS OF
PLACES...

WAAAAHA "HA" HAAA

I GUESS I'M
GETTING
PETTY
HOOKED ON THIS
GAME, HUN?

SILLY
ME

"THIS
IS
THE
WORLD,
THAT'S
WHY!"

AS
RENA
WOULD
SAY...

IF
THINGS
WERE
LIKE
THAT...
IT
WOULD
BE
NO
FUN AT
ALL!

THAT'S
WHAT THIS
WORLD IS
ALL ABOUT,
RIGHT?







NEW ADVENTURE ONLINE

THE WORLD

...SHUGO.

YES,
I
SEE.

MAY-
TOM-
SKY?

YOU-
JEE-
MYOON?

DE-
BLE-
WOM?

SOMEBODY
HELP ME!

SO THIS
TROUBLE-
MAKER'S
NAME
IS...



SUBJECT: GOOD WORK TODAY

SENDER: MIREILLE

LOG IN 11
4 YEARS
AGO



Recent events
are most
alarming.
Most grave.

You are aware
of why you were
suspended, Belmug?

EVERY-
THING YOU
NEED TO
KNOW
IS IN THE
REPORT I
SUBMITTED
TO YOU.

IF THIS
IS ABOUT
GUSGO
AND THE
VAGRANT
AS...

Your negligence
of your duties
is inexcusable!

This is no more
than a child's
summer vacation
diary!

You were
ordered to
give a
report on

AURA...

...And the
risk she
poses...

...through her irregular
contact with users.

...You mean
this piece
of rubbish
before me?



DON'T
WORRY.
JUST
DON'T
LET IT
HAPPEN
AGAIN.

I THINK
IT'S GONE!
BUT HAS
JUST BEEN,
SO SHE
WANTS
TO BUILD UP
HER OWN
REFERENCES,
RIGHT?



BUT I DID
FIND OUT
ONE
THING FOR
CERTAIN.

HUH?

OH,
YEAH.

I THINK
REACHING
THE
MAIN
HUBS-
SAPPHO,
BUT

...EVERY-
THING I
FOUND
JUST
SEEMED
A LITTLE
FISHY.

FOR YEARS
AND, SIX
PEOPLE
RECENTLY
FELL
UNCON-
SCIOUS
WHILE
PLAYING
THE
WORLD.



She is a threat to the interests of CC Corporation.



.....
We are most disappointed in you.



!!
We have ignored your little games out of respect for the "Azure Sky," but no more.



And why shouldn't we?

THAT'S ALL YOU PEOPLE EVER THINK ABOUT.

RISK ...



We must avoid a repeat of the incident four years ago at all costs!



The joining of a vagrant AI and a user in possession of a non-standard item is strictly in violation of protocol!



We cannot afford to take any chances!

WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT THIS BRACELET POSES A DANGER TO ANYTHING?!



AND WHAT ABOUT AURA?!

She poses a threat!



This is shaping up to be a second coming of the "Twilight"!



MAJOR DISASTERS
IN YOKOHAMA
DUE TO INTERNET
FAILURES

MULTIPLE CASES
OF THE PEOPLE LOST
CONSCIOUSNESS
AND WERE
HOSPITALIZED

IT WAS ALL 4 YEARS AGO.



THAT'S
ALL
JUST
GIBBER
LEGEND,
ISN'T
IT?

YOU'RE
KID-
DING!

ERT

REAL
PEOPLE
?

WAIT

AND
A
REAL
CITY?

SOUNDS

SAUND

AN OCEAN
GANG WAS
THE CAUSE
OF ALL
THAT?

...YOU GET
INVINCIBLE
MONSTERS.
AREAS YOU CAN'T
GET TO THROUGH
THE GATES... THE
LAST GOES ON
AND ON.

CHECKING
ON
DIFFERENT
MESSAGE
BOARDS FOR
HUGS...

THERE'S
TOO MANY
CONNECTIONS
FOR THIS
TO BE ALL
JUST A
MADE-UP
STORY

NO?



Balmung...

...you are unfit
to be a an
administrator
for CC Corp.



OH
WALLY?

I HADN'T
EVEN
GONE
AT
THE TIME

FOUR
YEARS
AGO
THAT PUTS
YOU IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

ALL THE
KIDNAPERS
ABOUT
FOUR
YEARS
AGO.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE
INCIDENT
IN YOKOHAMA
?

THAT WAS
THE YEAR
BEFORE I
STARTED
PLAYING
THIS GAMES.

ARE
VERY
SCIL-
OUS.



...SOMETHING
EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT
TO THIS WORLD.

...COULD
BE ZEPER
AND THIS
BRACELET.

...THE KEYS
TO UNLOCK-
ING THIS
MYSTERY--

IN OTHER
WORDS



DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE!

TEXT
IS
HUGE--
GOD!

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
?!

SHE'S
GONE! ZEPER

AH!

I
THOUGHT
YOU
LEARNED
YOUR
LESSON

ZEPER!



...IS WHEN
THE ZEPER
LOOK-
ALIKE WAS
SPOTTED.

AND
FOUR
YEARS
AGO...

FOUR YEARS
AGO ALSO
MARKED THE
FIRST
APPEARANCE
OF THE DOT
HACKERS.

AND
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.



TEXT IT
INVOLVED
MORE COM-
PLEX
CODES AND
"CODE"
INCREASINGLY
OVER TIME
IN TRADI-
TIONAL
STUFF

I ALWAYS
RECALLED

THE
FINAL
MYSTERY
THAT
THE DOT
HACKERS
SET...

SO
EVERY-
THING
STARTED
FOUR
YEARS
AGO...

IT'S
HARD
TO
EXPLAIN,
BUT...

SOME-
THING
ELSE?

IT
INVOLVES
SOMETHING
ELSE--
SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT..

BUT
MAYBE,
JUST
MAYBE



MEANWHILE,
I GET STUCK
WITH ALL
THE WORK.

ALWAYS
GOOFING
AROUND.



IF YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
BALMUNG,
HE WON'T BE
COMING.

I KNOW HE
LOVES TO TAKE
HIS TIME, BUT
THERE IS
RESPONSIBILITY.

HE'S NOT THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S GOT A LOT
TO DO.



THE
SHUDO CASE
HAS BEEN
CRACKED
TO MY
MASTER.
KAMUI AND
THE LOYAL
KNIGHT
RESERVE
WILL HANDLE
IT NOW.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

SAY--!
MAGI!!

I HAVE TO
ASK YOU
TO HAND
OVER ALL
OF THE
DATA
RECORDS
YOU ARE
HANDLING.

I'M
SORRY,
REBE.

WHAT
?!



BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

I'M
NOT
STUPID.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!

...OR
NPC.

WHETHER
IT BE
USER...

ADMINING
HAS BEEN
RESERVED
UP HIS
SYSTEM
ADMINIS-
TRATED'S
REPLY-
PAGE

ABOUT
ADMINING
NOT
COMING
?

HOLD
ON A
SEC.

WHAT
DID YOU
MEAN
JUST
NOW?

OR
EVEN
ADMINIS-
TRATOR,
IF NEED
BE.

WHAT THE
HELL DID
YOU GUYS
DO?!

WHY?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?

I'LL
TAKE
THAT
DATA.

IT'S
COMPANY
ORDERS.

NO-
THING.

IF YOU
CAN'T
CONTROL
IT...

AS
THEY
SAY UP
ABOVE
...

...
DELETE
IT.

A

SO TODAY
WE'RE
READY
FOR
ANOTHER
GREAT
DAY OF
FUN AND
ADVENTURE!

WE'VE
GATHERED
ALL THE
INFORMATION
WE NEED!

ALL
READY!

REALLY
READY!

Go!

Go!

GLASS!

OH...

GOOOOON

YAAAAA!

WHO'S
MORE
IMPORTANT
TO
YOU,
ME, OR
ZEPHS?

SHUGO!

DON'T BE
SO UPSET.
ZEPHS IS
ALWAYS
GOOFING
AROUND,
RIGHT?

HEE-
HEE!
ZEPHS!

GOING A
HEAD!

IT'S THE KEY,
BECAUSE WHO'S
JOB IS TO KEEP
THE PARTY
MOTIVATED!

HYAAAA!

☆

YUP

SURE,
THERE HAVE
BEEN TIMES
WHEN I'VE
THOUGHT TO
MYSELF...

DAM-
NIT...

BUT WE
ALWAYS PUT
THE GAMERS
AND THE
WORLD
FIRST,
BEFORE
ANYTHING
ELSE...

THINKING
WOULD
BE A LOT
EASIER
WITHOUT
SEM
AROUND

IF
YOU'LL
RESCUE
ME.

HOPE-
FULLY
THEY'LL
LET YOU
OFF WITH
JUST A
WAX CUT,
EHEH

BALMUNG...

...I'M
NOT
GOING
TO LET
IT END
LIKE
THIS!

THIS
IS MY
HIDE-
OUT!

WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?

BAH!

WHO
ARE
YOU?
!!

A
M
O
R
E!

KOMIYAN THE
TURD! LONELY
PRINCE OF
GRUNTY POOP!

YOU'RE
NOT
SUP-
POSED
TO BE
AROUND
TO GET
IN HERE.

UNLESS
YOU'RE
TEACH
MEMBER
ADD-
BOSSES!

HOW'D
YOU
GET IN
HERE?!

WELL,
YOU
SEE...

IT'S
KOMIYAN,
THE THREE
PECKES OF
SIMPRESA.
YADA YADA
YADA, KES
NOLANITY
SANDWICHES!

HOW
DARE
YOU
MESS UP
MY
NAME!

HEY,
HAI!
A
MOM-
ENT!

YES, THAT'S
RIGHT! IN
CLASS, I'M
ALWAYS THE
ODD MAN
OUT, LONELY AS
CAN BE.

OH
WELL!
COME
BACK.

ROSE
BUT
NOT
HIS
GUY

ENTER.
ENTER.
ENTER.
ENTER!!

ALL I
EVER
HEAR
FROM
YOU IS...

HUH?

I'M
NOT
JEAL-
OUS!

YOU
MORON!
GET-
TING
ALL
JEAL-
OUS
OVER
AN
AT!!

YES,
YOU
ARE.

COULDA
FOOLSD
ME

YES,
YOU
ARE.

YES,
YOU
ARE.

KUNISAKI!
HOW DARE
YOU MAKE
POOR
RENA CRY!

...SO YOU'D BETTER OBEY OUR ORDERS.

...WE ARE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS.

UGH...

IF YOU DON'T, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE FORCE

OUKA!!

WE ARE HERE TO INVESTIGATE A REPORT FROM ANOTHER USER

YES.

shing!

WE OPENED THE DOOR FOR HIM.

PUT YOUR CONTROLLERS DOWN, NOW!

DON'T MOVE!

WH-WHAT?!

JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU CESSPPS?! TALK ABOUT RUDE!!

!!



NEW EXPERIMENTAL REGION

THE WORLD

IN
ACCORDANCE WITH
THE USER
AGREEMENT...

...YOUR
CHARACTER
MODEL WILL
BE SEIZED
UNDER
SUSPICION
OF
MALICIOUS
CHEATING.

SHUGO.

!!



SUBJECT: FOUL PLAY



SENDER: KAMIYAN III

Dear The World's User Support Director, CC Corp.

First of all, I am one of the biggest fans of The World.
Please listen.

My precious character data has been ruined by
another user.

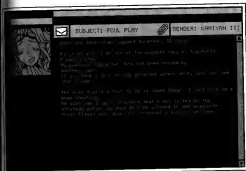
If you take a look at the attached screen shot, you will see
what I mean.

The user that did this to me is named Shugo. I just know he's
been cheating.

He also has a weird bracelet that's not listed in the
strategy guide. He shouldn't be allowed to get away with
this. Please shut down this criminal's account at once.



LOGIN 12
CHEATING



TAKE
A
GOOD
LOOK
!!

どぎゃー!!
da-ban!!



CHEAT-
ING?!

I
HAVEN'T
DONE
ANY-
THING!!

THERE HAD TO
BE SOME
KIND OF
MISTAKE

LISTEN
TO YOU
!!

WHY
MY
BROTHER
...?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

YOU'RE
PATHETIC,
KUNISAKI

...YOU'VE
FORGOT-
TEN WHAT
YOU DID
TO MY
FACE!!

DON'T
TELL
ME...

SHUGO...
YOU ARE
SUSPECTED
OF
MALICIOUS
CHEATING.

"CC CORP.
RESERVES
THE RIGHT
TO DEBIT
THE ACCOUNT
OF ANY USER
ORDERED
DULY OF
PRAUDULENT
ACTS"

DIDN'T
YOU READ
YOUR
AGREE-
MENT?

THEY'RE
GOING
TO BRASE
SHUGO?

WITH NO
ONE TO
STAND IN
MY WAY
SNA WILL
BE MINE AT
LAST!

IN
AGREEMENT
WITH YOUR
SNA
AGREEMENT,
I AM
SUSCENDING
YOUR
CHARACTER
MODEL.

ALONG
WITH...

IN
OTHER
WORDS...
HIS
CHARACTER
MODEL'S
GOING TO BE
DELETED

I'M
GOING
TO DISAPPEAR

!!

IT'S ALL
BECAUSE OF
THAT WEIRD
BRACELET
OF YOURS,
KUNISAKI!

SHUGO,
YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT
HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT, DO
YOU?

UM...
BR...
ABOUT
THAT...

... COULD
THAT HAVE
BEEN BACK
AT THE
TANABATA
EVENT?

OH
...

I HOPE YOU
GET THE MOST
HUMILIATING
PUNISHMENT
THE WORLD
CAN DIG UP!!

YOU--
YOU
FRIEND!

YOU
HARDLY
EVEN
NOTED IT?

WISH-
MENT?



YE AH!

YOU'RE
THE
GARBAGE,
LADY!



ZEPSE !!

GO
WE'LL BE
COLLECT-
ING HER

THAT NPC IS AN
IDEO-
CRACY--
A BUG,
GARBAGE
DATA,
NOTHING
MORE



.....



ARE
YOU
...



...GOING
TO
ERASE
ME
AGAIN?



OH
?!

NO!

YOU
KID-
DING
ME?!



WHAT
?!



YES, THE REST OF
YOU ARE BEING
SEIZED FOR
QUESTIONING.

WHA-
?!



AND
LAST
OF
ALL...

THE
NPC
OVER
THERE
!!





I've been really worried about you, Sir!

I'M JUST WAITING TO GO DEALT WITH.

Where have you been? Geez!

IS THAT YOU, SIR?



THEY NEVER STOP TO THINK THAT THEIR ONLY TRICK FOR PROTECTING THE WORLD COULD BE WRONG.

"IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT, DELETE IT"--

CC CORP STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED A THING.



...was among those rendered unconscious, right?

And one of your best friends ...

YES.



BUT THAT ONLY SERVED TO MAKE THE DAMAGE MUCH, MUCH WORSE.

CC CORP TRIED TO DELIVER ANOTHER 'KEE' AND THE BRACLET IS POSSESSED

FOUR YEARS AGO.



H M H .



MAYBE MY CHARACTER'S

...NOT OUT OF THE GAME QUITE YET.



...AND

THAT STUBBORN POOL HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT...



Balkung-san.

Are you still alive?



SHE'S STILL ALIVE AND WILL TO THIS DAY.

THEY DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT.

DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO SEE IT.

BUT CO CORP?



Balmung-san of the Azure Sky?

What do you plan on doing?

So...



Balmung...

...ARE THE PLAYERS THAT LIVE IN IT THEMSELVES.

THE ONLY ONES THAT CAN PROTECT THIS WORLD...

WHAT ELSE?



JUST LIKE CO CORP, I ASSUMED THEY WERE JUST YOUR AVERAGE MEAN-SPIRITED CREATORS AND I TRIED TO COLLECT THEM.

FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

AT THIS TIME, I UNDERSTOOD NOTHING ABOUT THE SYSTEM THAT NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

Grrr

BALMUNG OF THE AZURE SKY USED TO BE A PICTY STUBBORN GUY. DIDN'T HE?



AFTER THAT, I GAVE UP PLAYING TO BE AN ADMINISTRATOR.

...I SAW THE CORP OF THIS WORLD.

BUT I ACTUALLY SAW IT GOING BY KETS.

BECAUSE I LOVE THIS WORLD.



I...

...COULDN'T SAVE HIM.



HELDING CELLS
OF THE KNIGHTS
OF THE COBALT
SKY



IT FEELS
LIKE WE'VE
BEEN HERE
FOR AGES
ALREADY.

HOW
LONG
DO THEY
PLAN ON
KEEPING
US
HERE?



WHAT'S THE
STORY WITH
ALL THOSE
KNIGHT-
LOOKING
GUYS?

AREN'T GAMES
SUPPOSED TO BE
FUN?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS!



WHAT A
LAMELY
LITTLE
BUNCH.

WHA.
HARD-
HEADED
COMPANY
EXEC.

OVERSE
ADVENTS-
TEATERS-
TROUBLE-
SHOOTING
OF THE
ONLINE
WORLD

I SEE.
PROBABLY
CC COOD
PERSONNEL
RUNNING
THE WORLD.



I see.
Very well. You
have some
growing up to do.

Behave yourself.
You shall receive
the final verdict
at a later date.

You may go.

WHO'S THE BIGGER
CHILD HERE?



We await your
decision. Have
you changed your
mind?

YOU
KNOW
HOW
STUP-
ID I CAN
BE



YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND A THING...

DO YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS...?

AURA?





AH
...

AND THAT
GRUNTY
YOU'VE
BEEN
RAISING
SO
LOVING-
LY.



AND THOSE
ITEMS
YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
GET YOUR
HANDS ON
AGAIN.



G-G-
GONE?



UGH
...

EVEN THE
CHARACTERS
YOU SPENT
HUNDREDS
OF HOURS
BUILDING
UP.

ACTUALLY, WE
SHOULD BE
DELETING
YOUR
CHARACTERS,
TOO.

ALTHOUGH
INDIRECTLY,
YOU DID
REAP
BENEFITS
FROM THE
CHEATING.



EVERY-
THING...



AS
MEMBERS
OF THE
SAME
PARTY, YOU
ARE ALL
ACCOM-
PLICES TO
THIS
CRIME.



WAIT A SECOND!
THEY
HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
THIS!



AT CC
COEF. WE
RECEIVE
"GREAT CAT-
SPACTION
IS JOE
ONE."

OF
COURSE
WE
WOULDN'T
DO THAT
FAZ

OH,
SHUGO

SHUGO



ON THE
CONDITION
THAT YOU
ORGANIZE
YOUR PARTY
AND HAVE
INTEREST
WITH THE
OPERATION
OF THE
WORLD
AGAIN.

SO
REGARDING
THE THREE OF
YOU, WE WILL
FOCUS
ORGANIZING
YOUR
ACCOUNTS...

GRUNTY...
AFTER
SMUGO
WENT TO
ALL THE
TROUBLE
TO SAVE
YOU...

W
H
Y
?

GONE

DE-
LETED
P

BUT
GAB'S

SO
CUTE

I CAN'T
DO ANY-
THING
FOR MY
FRIENDS
!!

I
CANNOT
DO IT
...!!

HE CC
CORP.
THREE.
JUST GET
MY
FRIENDS
OUT OF
HERE,
WILL YAP?

THIS IS A
SERIOUS
I'M GLAD I
DIDN'T GET
ALL YOU
GUYS IN
TODD BASH
OF A FOX

IS
THAT
ALL?
THIS
IS GREAT
!!

THE GAME
AND ITS
MANAGE-
MENT...
IS THIS
IS THIS
WHAT IT'S
ALL ABOUT
?!

I'M
POWER-
LESS...
I HATE
OF MY
CHARACTER
TO BE THE
SECONDARY,
ALL FOR
NOBODY

I CAN'T
LEAVE
WITHOUT
THIS
CHARAC-
TER.

ALL THE
EARS IT HAS
IT'S
COLLECTED...
THE NUMBER
ADDRESSING
OF ALL THE
FRIENDS
I'VE MADE...

YOU
JUST
CAN'T
BRIBE
ME
FROM
THE
WORLD
!!

I...I
DON'T
WANNA
GET
DELETED.

DARN
IT!!



NEW INFORMATION ONLINE
THE WORLD



NO,
REALLY.
I'M JUST
GLAD
YOU
GUYS
...

...
AREN'T
BEING
ERASED.



USERS ARE
OUR VALUED
CUSTOMERS.
WELL,
SCORERS
CRIMINALS
AND
CRIMINALS.
THAT IS

IT'S NOT
LIKE WE'RE
DOING
THIS TO BE
MEAN

GOO
GOO

OR
ERASED

ERASED

B
A
G
ERASED



...MY
DEAR
CRIMI-
NALS.

NOW,
THEN.

YOU THREE
CAN WAIT
THREE FOR
YOUR PUNISH-
MENT...



.hack
//omake gallery



SUBJECT: ****

SENDER: ****

ARMING OF THE AZURE SKY HAS FAILED TO
MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS.

A REEVALUATION OF THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT
OF THE WORLD IS NOT OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, COBALT
KNIGHT BRIGADE.

DEEP SIGH @ COMIX



Business: Firms Serving the Common Good?



•hack//OUTTAKE



hack

ドットハック//たそがれのうでわでんせつ
//黄昏の腕輪伝説

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依澄れい

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0000-0001-7348-4000

近崎達也

